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ABSTRACT

Originally called the American Documentation Institute, over the years the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) has changed its emphasis from documentation to information science. During its 40 year history, the society has incorporated into its membership numerous individuals and agencies whose activities include classification, coding, information networks, computational linguistics, cybernetics, etc. The society is a non-profit, national organization with a solid financial base, and its activities include research, development, application, and education in the field of information science. (EMH)

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# A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE

A PROFESSIONAL PAPER

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR

THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF

LIBRARY SCIENCE

BY

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DENTON, TEXAS

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## PREFACE

This professional paper is being submitted to fulfill partial requirements for a Master of Library Science degree. The impetus for this paper originated from a discussion with Mr. John J. Miniter, professor, in the Spring of 1975.

This paper traces the history of the American Society for Information Science, rather than presenting a critical discussion of the Society. Only the significant accomplishments and events of the Society are included.

The purpose of this paper is to provide a history of the American Society for Information Science from its beginning to the present day. This paper encompasses the origin of the American Documentation Institute, as the American Society for Information Science was then called, the functions, activities and changes within the organization from its early history to the present.

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

The American Society for Information Science (ASIS), known as the American Documentation Institute (ADI) from 1937 to 1968, is a non-profit national professional association organized for scientific, literary and educational purposes and dedicated to the creation, organization, dissemination and application of knowledge relating to information and its transfer.[1] The primary purpose of the Society is to develop advanced methods and techniques that contribute to the more efficient use of information.

How, then, did the present organization evolve? This paper traces the development of the American Society for Information Science from its origin as the American Documentation Institute to the present Society. In order to better appreciate this history, it is necessary to define the terms, documentation and information science, in relation to the text. Documentation is defined as:

> 4: the assembling, coding and dissemination of recorded knowledge comprehensively treated as an

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[1] The American Society for Information Science, p. 1.

> integral procedure utilizing semantics, psychological and mechanical aids, and techniques of reproduction including microcopy for giving documentary information maximum accessibility and usability.[1]

Information science is:

> concerned with the generation, collection, organization, interpretation, storage, retrieval, dissemination, transformation, and use of information, with particular emphasis on the applications of modern technologies in these areas. As a discipline, it seeks to create and structure a body of scientific, technological, and systems knowledge related to the transfer of information. It has both pure science (theoretical) components, which inquire into the subject without regard to application, and applied science (practical) components, which develop services and products.[2]

The American Documentation Institute, created in 1937, concentrated on microphotographic documentation. The influence of documentation became international, and in 1947 the American Documentation Institute joined the International Federation for Documentation. Individuals showed such an interest in documentation that the Institute, formerly consisting of representatives of nominating agencies, opened the membership to individuals in 1952. From 1960 to the present, services and programs of the Institute have been enlarged and expanded to meet the needs of the members. In January 1968 the American Documentation

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[1] Webster's Third New International Dictionary, 1961 ed., s.v. "documentation."

[2] The American Society for Information Science, p. 2.

Institute became the American Society for Information Science, reflecting the change in the emphasis of the Institute from documentation to information science. The American Society for Information Science of today maintains an extensive program of activities. The major functions, activities and changes of the Society from its origin to the present will be discussed in the following chapters.

## CHAPTER II

## ORIGIN OF THE AMERICAN DOCUMENTATION INSTITUTE

Watson Davis provided the impetus for development of the American Documentation Institute through his efforts as a leader in Science Service, an institution whose sole aim is the popularization of science. His work with documentation techniques led to the formation of Bibliofilm Service and Auxiliary Publication Service. In order to understand these first programs of the American Documentation Institute, it is necessary to trace their development in Science Service.

Documentation efforts in Science Service commenced in 1926 when Watson Davis and Dr. Edwin E. Slosson, first director of Science Service, envisioned the potential usefulness of microfilm for documentation. Through correspondence, conference and memoranda, they urged attention be given to the use of microphotographic duplication in scientific publications. A mimeographed memorandum, "Project for Scientific Publication and Bibliography," by Watson Davis was issued in August 1933 for the purpose of discussion and criticism. This memorandum described a possible

central scientific information institute (S.I.I.); methods of publication and bibliography; and suggested the advantages of microphotographic duplication and mechanization of bibliography methods.[1]

Science Service furthered pioneer efforts in documentation by holding conferences where proposals for the use of microphotographic duplication were discussed. One of these conferences, initiated by Watson Davis, was composed of fifteen persons known by him to be interested in the subject of film copying of documents. Among those attending this conference on November 5, 1934, were three documentalists: Dr. R. H. Draeger, Medical Department of the United States Navy; Miss Claribel R. Barnett, Librarian, United States Department of Agriculture; and Atherton Seidell, National Institute of Health.

As a result of this conference, arrangements were made for Dr. Draeger to install his camera in the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture in order to experiment with copying articles in bound volumes of journals. This new work, known as Bibliofilm Service, officially began on November 15, 1934, when the first film

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[1]Watson Davis, "Activities of Science Service in Scientific Documentation," 2d ed. February 10, 1936, Documentation Division, Document No. 72, Science Service, Washington, D.C., p. 1.

copies were sent out. Bibliofilm Service was a non-profit, cooperative service:

> started on enthusiasm, cooperation and hope, for no special funds for the service were available. The films and necessary chemicals and equipment were furnished by Dr. Seidell and Dr. Draeger. The Library supplied the space for carrying on the work and one Library assistant.[1]

Bibliofilm Service was unique in that its main purpose served:

> (1) to decrease interlibrary loans of books by supplying directly to individuals copies of scientific articles, particularly those contained in periodicals, and
> (2) to extend the use of the resources of the Library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to isolated scientific workers without adequate facilities.[2]

This service, primarily limited to materials in the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture, provided inexpensive microfilm and photo print copies. Copyright developed as an issue from the initial stages of operation. In 1935 the "Gentlemen's Agreement" was reached whereby libraries were permitted to photocopy to the extent that it was a substitution for the purchase of a copy of the book itself.

By mid-1935 it was possible to initiate some of the phases of the "Project for Scientific Publication and

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[1]Claribel R. Barnett, "The Bibliofilm Service," Agricultural Library Notes 11 (January 1936): 55.

[2]Ibid.

Bibliography."

> In July, 1935, opportunity for active investigation and development of microphotographic duplication apparatus and methods arose through cooperation with other institutions. The U.S. Naval Medical School cooperated by allowing Dr. R. H. Draeger to direct the mechanism development; the Library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperated by providing space for a microphotographic library, and essential funds in the amount of $15,000 was provided by Mr. Francis P. Garvan, President of the Chemical Foundation. Later, cooperation was obtained from the Bureau of the Census and the Works Progress Administration.[1]

The Chemical Foundation Grant allowed Science Service to organize its Documentation Division in July 1935 for "initial exploration, development of mechanisms and inauguration of some phases of the publications project."[2] Prior to this, the proposed activities of the Documentation Division were designated to the tentatively named "Scientific Information Institute" (S.I.I.). The emphasis of the Documentation Division centered on four areas:

> a. Development of mechanisms useful in microphotographic and other photographic duplication and in bibliography.
> b. Publication for those scientific papers and monographs that can not now secure prompt or complete issuance.
> c. Cooperation with libraries in making available by photographic methods the literature of the past. (Bibliofilm Service operated by Science Service in the Library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.)

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[1]Watson Davis, "Report to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Science Service," May 21, 1936.

[2]Davis, "Activities of Science Service," p. 1.

d. Investigation of the broad problem of scientific bibliography and useful mechanisms.[1]

Progress in the use of microfilms was dependent upon satisfactory equipment for reading the film. The necessary reading devices, cameras, and other mechanisms were designed and constructed in model form as a result of cooperative effort under the auspices of the Documentation Division of Science Service. These devices became commercially available in the fall of 1936.

It soon became desirable to establish a cooperative agreement between the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture and Science Service. "Under the cooperative arrangement, which became effective January 1, 1936, Science Service has taken over the Bibliofilm Service, including the business management, all the routine photographic work, and the experimental work of developing mechanisms."[2] However, the photographic laboratory remained in the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture, acting as the agent of the individual or institution ordering the microfilm copies.

The Documentation Division of Science Service established the Auxiliary Publication Service on March 1, 1936.

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[1]Ibid., p. 2.

[2]Barnett, "The Bibliofilm Service," p. 59.

It was a natural outcome of the microfilm and documentation development sponsored by Science Service.

> The plan of Auxiliary Publication . . . was proposed in a memo issued June 20, 1935, "Project for Publication of Scientific Papers and Monographs That Can Not Now Secure Prompt and Complete Issuance," by Watson Davis. It was . . . discussed and presented in detail at a conference on documentation in Washington called by Science Service June 30, 1935.[1]

The Auxiliary Publication Service provided scientists and scholars prompt access, in a convenient and usable form, to important papers too long to be published in the journals. An abstract or notice of the original paper appeared in the appropriate journal, together with a statement that the entire paper, with its charts, diagrams or illustrations if any, could be obtained as microfilms or photo prints from Science Service. The documents, available for a nominal fee, were always "in print" as the negative could be used to make a copy at any time. Reproduction was done in the laboratory of the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture where Bibliofilm Service was located. In the Auxiliary Publication Service, microfilm copies supplemented rather than replaced other forms of publication.

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[1]Watson Davis, "15 Years Experience with Auxiliary Publication," American Documentation 2 (April 1951): 87.

The Chemical Foundation Grant provided funds for the operation of Bibliofilm Service and the Auxiliary Publication Service through March 1937. The mechanism development was terminated in June 1936 when these mechanisms became commercially available.

The interest of librarians, editors and others in microphotography and the use of microfilm resulted, in part, from Science Service activity. "It is foreseen as a logical outcome of the activities of the Documentation Division that there may be formed a Documentation Institute to facilitate utilization of microphotography in the whole scholarly field, including that of science."[1]

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[1]Davis, "Report to the Annual Meeting."

## CHAPTER III

## FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN DOCUMENTATION INSTITUTE

Under the leadership of Watson Davis, a group of men interested in development of a documentation association organized a conference in March 1937 which drew approximately thirty representatives from national councils, societies, libraries and other organizations to Washington, D.C. The American Documentation Institute stemmed from this conference as a not-for-profit Delaware corporation for the promotion and development of documentation in scientific and scholarly fields.

> The American Documentation Institute, formed on behalf of some fifty of America's leading scientific and scholarly societies, councils, and institutions arose out of the need for a broad, energetic and intellectually motivated development of all phases of documentation, particularly microphotographic duplication and its ramifications, in the fields of physical, natural, social, and historical sciences and the general sphere of libraries and information services.[1]

At the documentation conference on March 13, 1937, the representatives accepted the tentative Articles of

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[1]Watson Davis, "Microfilms Make Information Accessible," Special Libraries 29 (February 1938): 37.

Incorporation, elected a Board of Trustees and chose Watson Davis to serve as President of the American Documentation Institute. They designed the organizational structure of the Institute to:

> invite the learned and scientific societies of the United States each to appoint a single representative who will be a member of the American Documentation Institute, and those members, meeting annually, will elect the trustees who become the executive and administrative department of the organization.[1]

Agencies nominating members included the American Library Association, the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Special Libraries Association, the Archivist of the United States, the American Council on Education and many others. There were no dues, no costs, nor commitments to respective organizations which were granted memberships for a period of three years. The members met once a year for their annual meeting where the main topic of business was to elect the Board of Trustees. The Board, also members of the corporation, governed the American Documentation Institute by appointing the officers of the corporation and managing the property, activities and any other business of the Institute.

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[1]"Documentation Institute," American Library Association Bulletin 31 (October 15, 1937): 699.

Science Service provided the American Documentation Institute with initial funds totaling $2,400 left from a grant of $15,000 given to Science Service by the Chemical Foundation for support of the Auxiliary Publication Service. Bibliofilm Service and Auxiliary Publication Service, formerly conducted by the Documentation Division of Science Service, became the nucleus of the American Documentation Institute. These services were transferred to the American Documentation Institute on July 1, 1937, for further development and expansion.

As one of its first projects, the American Documentation Institute participated in the first World Congress of Universal Documentation, an effort towards world cooperation in documentation, held in Paris, August 1937. Watson Davis chaired the American delegation at this conference.

Bibliofilm Service, which copied research material on microfilm, continued to operate in the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture where the American Documentation Institute also maintained microphotographic laboratories. The first objective of the American Documentation Institute in operating Bibliofilm Service was to solve problems. Bibliofilm Service acted as "a national clearinghouse for copying orders for research materials, filling them through its own and other services, for

materials located in substantially all Washington and Baltimore libraries, bureaus and institutions and in other cities here and abroad."[1] In fall 1937 Bibliofilm Service expanded to include the Library of Congress and the Army Medical Library. Bibliofilm Service extended in late 1938 to the Geological Survey and the United States Department of Interior thus forming the first general microfilm service to cover collections of the Federal libraries in Washington, D.C.

The design and development of microphotographic mechanisms, a task of the American Documentation Institute, was accomplished through Science Service with the cooperation of the Chemical Foundation, United States Navy, Bureau of the Census, Works Progress Administration and the Library of Congress. Approximately $25,000 went into this development and the equipment of a laboratory located in the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture capable at last of economic and efficient operation of Bibliofilm Service.[2] The Institute did not engage in the

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[1]"Bibliofilm Service," Library Journal 63 (December 1, 1938): 902.

[2]Cuthbert Lee, "American Documentation Institute and Auxiliary Publication," Inter-American Bibliographical and Library Association Proceedings 2 (1939): 295.

sale or manufacture of microphotographic mechanisms as it expected commercial enterprise to conduct this work.

The American Documentation Institute continued the Auxiliary Publication Service, thus making material which could not be published in full as well as older manuscripts, out-of-print materials, and dissertations accessible through use of microfilm and photo prints. Approximately thirty journals and organizations cooperated, without any investment or subsidy by author or editor, by depositing their materials with the American Documentation Institute. Auxiliary Publication Service microfilmed rare European manuscripts in several countries for the Modern Language Association as part of its program.

By 1939 the influence of the American Documentation Institute had become international. During this year, Dr. Atherton Seidell initiated a similar organization in France, Le Bibliofilm de la Commission Internationale des Industries Agricoles. The Bibliofilm Service of the American Documentation Institute filled orders for this organization through correspondence not only with France and other European countries but also with South American and Asian countries.[1]

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[1]Cuthbert Lee, "Le Bibliofilm de la Commission Internationale des Industries Agricoles," Agricultural Library Notes 14 (June 1939): 359.

Various foundations recognized the advantages of microfilm and generously contributed to the American Documentation Institute. The Chemical Foundation grant provided funds from 1936 to 1938. An emergency grant from the Rockefeller Foundation assured continuation of services during the early months of 1938. The Carnegie Corporation provided a grant to the Institute in 1939 for the hiring of a director, Cuthbert Lee, who had direct charge of the operating activities of the American Documentation Institute.

With an emphasis on microphotography the Institute implemented projects for the development of documentation. During its early years, the American Documentation Institute maintained Bibliofilm Service and the Auxiliary Publication Service to fulfill the documentation needs of its members and scientific and scholarly agencies.

## CHAPTER IV

## THE AMERICAN DOCUMENTATION INSTITUTE FROM 1940 TO 1949

The American Documentation Institute, after a strong beginning, decreased its activities during the 1940s. The Institute appeared to be an organization whose major activity was to meet for its annual business meeting as required by the Bylaws. However, it did maintain some of its activities and added a few new ones during this decade.

The first new activity of the Institute, conducted in cooperation with the Division of Cultural Relations of the Department of State, dealt with information regarding receipt of scientific journals from Europe during 1940. The American Documentation Institute circulated notices, published in various scientific and scholarly journals, stating that it would attempt to secure information concerning whether or not the delay in delivery of scientific journals to the United States was due to war conditions. At the 1940 annual meeting of the Institute, the major part of this activity, coordinated with those of the Librarian of Congress and the American Library Association, became the responsibility of the Librarian of Congress. The

American Documentation Institute continued to copy whole journals either on microfilm or by photoprint thereby permitting libraries and individuals to obtain missing issues of scientific journals from Europe.[1]

In 1940 the American Council of Learned Societies, the Library of Congress and the American Documentation Institute sponsored Dr. Horace I. Poleman on a tour of India. He distributed literature regarding the American Documentation Institute after finding a need for such a service. "One objective had been to arouse interest in the formation of a service to scholarship comparable to the Bibliofilm Service in order that original Indian manuscripts could be made available on film to American scholars."[2]

The American Documentation Institute established and maintained an Oriental Science Literature Service from 1941 to 1944. It published the Far Eastern Science Bulletin which contained abstracts of scientific papers published in the Japanese and Chinese languages with adjunct translation facilities.[3]

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[1]Watson Davis, "Receipt of European Journals During the War," Science 91 (April 5, 1940): 338-39.

[2]Eugene Adhemar Tilleaux, "Microphotography in 1940," Journal of Documentary Reproduction 4 (March 1941): 34.

[3]Henry J. Dubester, "The Role of the American Documentation Institute in International Documentation," American Documentation 3 (January 1962): 117.

Bibliofilm Service continued its programs with branches in the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Geological Survey, the National Bureau of Standards and the Library of Congress. This service located and filmed all types of material. Medicofilm Service, a natural evolution from the Institute's Bibliofilm Service, began in 1940 in the Army Medical Library. Previously, Bibliofilm Service did all the microfilming for this library.

The Library of the United States Department of Agriculture assumed the operation of the Bibliofilm Service in 1941.

> The American Documentation Institute is continuing to cooperate by loan of equipment and joining in facilitating maximum service. The Institute is enabled by this arrangement to give major attention to the important function of auxiliary publication through microfilm, sets of journals in microfilm, and other activities of service to the scientific and scholarly world.[1]

In 1946 the American Documentation Institute published the first edition of the Catalog of Auxiliary Publications in Microfilms and Photoprints, a listing of approximately 2,000 documents deposited with the Institute. These documents, which were available upon request for a nominal fee, covered a wide range of subjects. The

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[1]"Bibliofilm Service," Agricultural Library Notes 16 (August 1941): 429.

Translations Clearing House project, jointly sponsored by the American Documentation Institute and the Office of the Alien Property Custodian, provided for a number of documents, including some translations of foreign language scientific papers, to be deposited with the American Documentation Institute. These were listed in the Catalog of Auxiliary Publications in Microfilms and Photoprints as well as microfilmed sets of journals thereby enabling libraries to obtain rare and out-of-print journals of a scientific and scholarly nature. To facilitate this service, the laboratories of the American Documentation Institute, located in the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture under cooperative agreement, were used jointly for the operation of Bibliofilm Service and the work of the Institute, including that of the Auxiliary Publication Service.[1]

The International Federation for Documentation (FID), after undergoing reorganization in 1947, actively sought an American organization to hold a national membership in the Federation. The American Documentation Institute and the American Library Association jointly sponsored a delegate, Vernon Tate, to the 1947 meeting of the

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[1] American Documentation Institute, Catalog of Auxiliary Publications in Microfilms and Photoprints (Washington, D.C.: American Documentation Institute, 1946), pp. iii-iv.

International Federation for Documentation in Bern, Switzerland. Tate, authorized to apply for American membership on behalf of the American Documentation Institute, found unanimous acceptance of the Institute as a national member of the Federation. However, Tate realized that the American Documentation Institute had to acquire considerable financial resources to support this activity. Also, he believed that an expansion of interests and activities of the American Documentation Institute and possibly even reorganization were needed for the Institute to take an effective part in the Federation.[1]

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[1]Charles W. David, "Report from Europe," College and Research Libraries 9 (April 1948): 146-47.

## CHAPTER V

## THE AMERICAN DOCUMENTATION INSTITUTE FROM 1950 TO 1959

The period 1950 to 1959 reflected an increase of interest in the American Documentation Institute. The Institute continued to expand and develop its activities. During this decade, the American Documentation Institute became the professional society for documentalists, began its own published record, American Documentation, co-sponsored events with other societies and began to promote its own activities.

Luther H. Evans, Librarian of Congress, was elected President of the American Documentation Institute in 1950. Thus, the Library of Congress became the executive headquarters of the Institute for the next ten years. The Institute began to take a new direction.

Perhaps the most significant project of the American Documentation Institute in this decade, achieved through the Institute's Committee on Publication, was the publication of the quarterly journal, American Documentation. Vernon D. Tate, editor from 1950 to 1952, stated the aims of American Documentation to be:

> to serve as an impartial clearinghouse and channel of communication for information from any source about documentation; for the publication of original research in the field; for reporting investigations of new techniques, mechanisms and devices for documentation and their applications both in the United States and abroad; to assist in the development and adoption of basic standards; to provide bibliographic and other control of the literature; to serve as an effective medium for national and international cooperation and exchange in documentation; to stimulate and discuss new ideas and approaches to existing or future problems, and for the publication of material originated by the American Documentation Institute.[1]

Historically, American Documentation continued the Journal of Documentary Reproduction founded in 1937 by the Committee on Photographic Reproduction of Library Materials of the American Library Association.

During its early years, American Documentation contained information about the activities of the American Documentation Institute. In 1951 Luther Evans started the "President's Newsletter" which concerned itself with the activities and affairs of the organization in addition to conveying items of interest to the Institute's members. This "President's Newsletter," later published separately, evolved into the ADI Newsletter in the early 1960s.

From the beginning, American Documentation regularly contained an annotated bibliographic section which later became known as "Literature Notes." This work, done

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[1]Vernon D. Tate, "Introducing American Documentation," American Documentation 1 (January 1950): 3.

by the Committee on the Organization of Information, developed into Documentation Abstracts in the mid-1960s.

At the 1951 annual business meeting, discussion centered around the American Documentation Institute's program of auxiliary publication and long runs of journals. There had been a drastic decline in revenue from the sale of positive prints of its microfilm of long runs of journals. This program, formerly the Institute's principal source of income, diminished due partly to restrictions on filming imposed by copyright considerations, but mostly due to the lack of recent additions, the depletion of the market for prints of those that were available, and the lack of adequate publicity. The Library of Congress Photoduplication Service, in cooperation with the American Documentation Institute, did the actual production of the documents in microfilm or photoprint.[1]

The most notable event in the history of the American Documentation Institute is the membership decision, occurring in 1952, that granted individual membership into the Institute. Discussion concerning this started in fall 1951. At that time the members, nominated from sixty-nine nominating agencies and elected to membership by their

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[1]Luther H. Evans, "President's Newsletter," American Documentation 2 (April 1951): 70.

predecessors, had very few powers. The Board of Trustees, elected by the membership, held the majority of the power. It elected the officers, made the Bylaws, named the nominating agencies, prescribed the conditions of membership and held all residual power. Evans believed that the American Documentation Institute suffered because its business appeared to be the last of the concerns of the members due to the manner in which the Institute was governed.[1] An evident need had developed for an individual membership association for documentalists. Thus, the American Documentation Institute moved to reconstitute itself as a "national professional society for those concerned with the problems of documentation and information services."[2]

On March 7, 1952, the Bylaws of the Institute were amended to include individual membership. The new structure of the American Documentation Institute established three classes of membership: members designated by nominating agencies; individual members; and institutional members. All of these members paid dues. The membership

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[1]Luther H. Evans, "President's Newsletter," American Documentation 2 (October 1951): 185.

[2]Robert McAffee, Jr., "Organizational Profile: American Society for Information Science," Information 3 (May-June 1971): 177.

gained the power of voting and electing all the officers of the Institute and the powers prescribed for the members resided in the membership in that the membership made recommendations.[1]

Finally, on September 26, 1952, the new Constitution and Bylaws of the American Documentation Institute won approval by a majority vote of the membership. At that time the membership totaled 202 individual members, 5 institutional members and 59 nominating agency members. The new Constitution and Bylaws removed the limit of 200 members and designated the membership to manage the business of the corporation. The Constitution provided for a Council, consisting of the president, president-elect, past president, treasurer and two other members, to manage the corporation, rather than having a Board of Trustees. Hence, the American Documentation Institute became the organization for individuals interested in documentation.

The American Documentation Institute began questioning its affiliation with the International Federation for Documentation as early as 1952. At that time the Federation looked to the American Documentation Institute for help, leadership and financial support. However, the Institute

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[1]"Minutes of the Deferred Annual Meeting of ADI," American Documentation 3 (January 1952): 7.

needed to clarify what it expected from the International Federation for Documentation before anything could be accomplished. The American Documentation Institute decided to continue its membership in the International Federation for Documentation, although no action was taken to determine the Institute's role in the Federation.[1]

Activities of the American Documentation Institute included study of bibliographic control, concern with the problems of cataloging and classification and the continuation and expansion of the Institute's publication program. Operation of the Auxiliary Publication program, formerly conducted by Science Service, was transferred to the office of the secretary of the American Documentation Institute. The Reproduction Service of the Institute united the Journal Reproduction and the Auxiliary Publication Services. The Library of Congress, assuming title to all materials collected and deposited through this program, provided maintenance and service for the Reproduction Service. The Institute received a small royalty from this.[2]

The 1954 annual meeting of the Institute proved significant in three respects: the meeting was held away from Washington, D.C. for the first time; papers were

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[1] Ibid., pp. 2-3.

[2] G. Miles Conrad, "Minutes of the Council Meetings," American Documentation 3 (October 1952): 205.

volunteered or sponsored by members, rather than a program of solicited papers; and Dr. Atherton Seidell received the first American Documentation Institute Award. In 1956 areas discussed as prerequisites to the Institute's future success included a paid staff and headquarters office, assistance from private research foundations, local chapters and awards and incentives.

Cooperating with other societies, the American Documentation Institute, the Special Libraries Association and the Association of Technical Writers and Editors sponsored an Institute on Special Librarianship and Documentation on June 8, 1956.

> Views of individuals attending the Institute ranged from proposals to merge SLA with the American Documentation Institute to opinions that documentation offers nothing new and is in fact only another name for special librarianship. . . . It was recalled that a merger of SLA with the American Documentation Institute was first proposed to the Executive Board in 1950.[1]

No further action was taken at that time towards a possible merger.

An International Conference on Scientific Information, held in November 1958 in Washington, D.C., received support from the American Documentation Institute, the

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[1]B. M. Fry, "Special Librarianship and/or Documentation--A Report on the Post-Convention Institute," Special Libraries 47 (September 1956): 326.

National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council and the National Science Foundation. Selected papers provided the nucleus for conference discussions. This conference served as a forum for a thorough discussion of the status of research on scientific information problems and methods of solving them.[1]

An important step towards the advancement of the American Documentation Institute began with the establishment of the first chapter of the Institute, the Potomac Valley Chapter, approved on June 26, 1958. This local chapter served as a model for formation of similar groups throughout the country.

The American Documentation Institute expanded during this decade due to its new organizational structure which permitted individual membership. The period of 1950 to 1959 showed an active and vital renewal of interest in documentation, a trend which continued into the next decade. In 1959 the American Documentation Institute began to seek a grant, continuing into the 1960s, to allow for further development of its activities.

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[1] "International Conference on Scientific Information," American Documentation 8 (January 1956): 76.

## CHAPTER VI

## THE AMERICAN DOCUMENTATION INSTITUTE FROM 1960 TO 1967

Although the 1950s disclosed a steady growth in membership and activities, it was not until the 1960s that the American Documentation Institute became an extremely active organization with rapidly increasing membership and programs. The establishment of more regional chapters promoted the Institute in certain areas of the nation. Membership grew from 300 in 1959 to more than 2,500 in 1967. Accomplishments for the American Documentation Institute included a broadened publication program, innovations at the annual meetings and more cooperation with other professional organizations. An initial thrust for these accomplishments may be traced to the receipt of a National Science Foundation grant in 1959.

The National Science Foundation grant totaling $49,500 was received over a three year period, 1960 to 1962. The grant, used for the enlargement and improvement of the American Documentation Institute and for the funding of a secretariat, brought new life to the Institute. With the aid of this grant:

> ADI had quadrupled its membership, established fifteen local chapters, maintained a full-time secretariat . . . As a result, ADI has achieved professional stature and is recognized as the central professional organization in the information sciences.[1]

The establishment of a secretariat with a salaried executive director and offices in Washington, D.C. became a reality in October 1960. The director had responsibility for "developing programs for the ADI . . . which will substantially enlarge its membership and place the ADI on a self-sustaining financial basis at its new levels of accomplishment."[2] As the first full-time Executive Director, Dr. John B. Kaiser represented the American Documentation Institute professionally and managed the national headquarters. When the National Science Foundation grant expired, the secretariat continued but proved to be a financial burden on the Institute.

The American Documentation Institute had never been a self-supporting organization but it did manage to survive with the aid of grants which insured the programs and continuation of the Institute. By 1964 the American Documentation Institute was close to bankruptcy due to failure to

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[1]"ADI Receives Grant from National Science Foundation," ADI Newsletter 2 (December 1973): 3.

[2]C. Dake Gull, "Annual Report of the President of the American Documentation Institute," American Documentation 12 (January 1961): 3.

obtain a grant. The Council then signed a contract in 1964 with James E. Bryan, Inc. for the management of the American Documentation Institute. This agency, specializing in the business affairs of small science societies and professional groups, helped the American Documentation Institute to develop into a strong, self-sustaining organization. By 1966 the Institute had greatly improved its financial position. During these years, the American Documentation Institute supported a program of extraordinary activity.

The value of the Institute's membership in the International Federation for Documentation had been discussed in the early 1950s. In October 1959 the Council signed a resolution which proposed to develop an extensive representation and participation in the Federation. After critically evaluating the American Documentation Institute's role in the Federation, the Institute requested the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council to consider the United States national membership in the International Federation for Documentation. At the 1960 conference of the International Federation for Documentation, the American Documentation Institute asked to be relieved of its national membership to become an associate corporate member while the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council asked

to become the United States national member.[1] These requests were approved and became effective during the conference. The International Relations Committee of the Institute channeled information between the United States National Committee for the International Federation for Documentation and the American Documentation Institute.

In 1961 the former "President's Newsletter" became the ADI Newsletter. Issued sporadically at first, "its main purpose is to serve as a clearing house for news of Council and Committee action and a forum for membership opinion and suggestion."[2]

The Joint Operating Group, created as a cooperative venture between the American Documentation Institute and the Special Libraries Association, strengthened their programs on improving the handling of technical information. This group was an intensified effort towards making available to the technical community the skills and competence of all concerned with information handling.[3]

The annual meetings of the American Documentation Institute became more sophisticated as the membership grew.

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[1]Ibid., p. 4.

[2]John B. Kaiser, "A New 'Newsletter,'" ADI Newsletter 1 (May 1961): 2.

[3]"SLA-ADI Venture to Implement Technology Information Availability," Library Journal 88 (August 1963): 2858.

"In particular the annual meetings provide a test bed for experimenting with small but significant changes in meeting format to improve both formal and informal communication."[1] Features inaugurated at the 1961 annual meeting included tutorial sessions, specialists seminars, state of the art reports, author forums and exhibitors' presentations. The Placement Service initiated at the 1962 annual meeting became part of the Institute's national program.

In 1963 papers circulated in advance of the convening of the meeting in the first book of technical articles ever produced by type set automatically by electronic processing equipment. A National Science Foundation grant supported this project. A series of exchange sessions at the 1963 annual meeting increased interdisciplinary participation.

The 1965 annual meeting of the American Documentation Institute, held in conjunction with the International Federation for Documentation Congress in Washington, D.C., gave birth to eight Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The Special Interest Groups, professional societies within the Institute, gave scope and focus to the divergent interests of the American Documentation Institute members by providing

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[1] Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, 1973 ed., s.v. "American Society for Information Science," by Robert S. Taylor and Harold Borko.

"an opportunity to identify and meet with colleagues having similar special interests, and to cultivate these interests through conferences, publications, and other activities."[1]

The American Documentation Institute sponsored the Working Symposium on Education for Information Science which later became known as the Airlie Conference. This symposium, held in September 1965 with a final session at the International Federation for Documentation Congress in October, created a better perspective concerning the educational aims and policy of information science. A grant from the United States Office of Education of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare helped support this conference which resulted in the publication and distribution of a volume entitled Education for Information Science.

The Proceedings of Annual Meetings appeared in American Documentation until 1964 when the Proceedings began separate publication. Each volume of the Proceedings was dedicated to the theme of the annual meeting. By being published prior to the annual meeting, the Proceedings provided the registrant an opportunity to read the material before the convening of the meeting.

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[1]James E. Bryan, "ADI Today and Tomorrow," ADI Newsletter 5 (September-October 1966): 1.

In 1965 the National Science Foundation awarded a grant to the American Documentation Institute to initiate a new publication entitled Annual Review of Information Science. This grant totaled $60,500 for a two year period. A subcontract between the System Development Corporation and the American Documentation Institute implemented the project whereby the System Development Corporation collaborated with the Institute by supplying an editor and staff. Dr. Carlos A. Cuadra served as editor. The first volume of the Annual Review of Information Science reviewed 1965 and some previous work. Each volume in the series covered the literature and development of the calendar year prior to the year of publication and provided brief summaries of new contributions to the state of the art in documentation and in information science.

Documentation Abstracts began in March 1966 as an expansion of a service previously provided in the "Literature Notes" of American Documentation and the "Annotated Bibliography" of Chemical Literature. In June 1966 Documentation Abstracts added the "Documentation Digest" of Sci-Tech News. Thus, the American Documentation Institute, the Chemical Literature Division of the American Chemical Society and the Special Libraries Association sponsored Documentation Abstracts. This quarterly abstracts

journal, edited since 1966 by Ben-Ami Lipetz, was a comprehensive source of information about the literature in the field of documentation and related areas.

Other accomplishments during this period in the Institute's history included a new Constitution and Bylaws adopted in 1965:

> its purpose being to improve and expand the ADI's organic law; to provide for changed needs and functions; to clarify the status of chapters and special interest groups; to simplify and rationalize the ADI committee structure; and to integrate national and chapter committee structures.[1]

The Institute's "Distinguished Lectureship" provided an opportunity for chapters to hear outstanding authorities in information science speak on topics of current interest. The interest shown by students in the work of the American Documentation Institute developed into Student Chapters. Local chapters of the Institute co-sponsored the Student Chapters and gave students an opportunity to participate in chapter activities. In October 1964 the Council established a Scholarship Fund for Information Science in memory of Hans Peter Luhn, former president of the Institute.

The American Documentation Institute presented the annual Award of Merit:

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[1] "1965 ADI Annual Business Meeting," ADI Newsletter 4 (November-December 1965): 2-3.

> to the member of the profession who made the greatest contribution to the field for the year. The kinds of contributions that qualify for the award include expression of new ideas, creation of new devices, development of better techniques, or outstanding service to the profession.[1]

Hans Peter Luhn received the first award in 1964.

By 1967 the American Documentation Institute exhibited characteristics of a professional organization: financial responsibility, a Code of Ethics, regular production of critical reviews of developments and cooperative projects with peer organizations. To reflect its professional characteristics the American Documentation Institute considered a new name. In 1937 the interests of the charter members of the American Documentation Institute focused on documents of all kinds in all fields of human activity. Until 1952 the American Documentation Institute membership consisted of representatives appointed from various institutions. After permitting individual membership in 1952, many members felt that the term "documentation" did not effectively represent the full scope of the interests and activities of the Institute. Also, the word "institute" did not clearly indicate a professional society. In June 1967 "the Council of the American Documentation Institute

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[1]American Society for Information Science, 1969-70 American Society for Information Science Handbook and Directory (Washington, D.C.: American Society for Information Science, 1969), p. ii.

voted unanimously to recommend to the membership that the American Documentation Institute become the 'American Society for Information Science,' effective January 1, 1968."[1]

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[1]James E. Bryan, "'By Another Name...,'" ADI Newsletter 6 (July-August 1967): 2.

## CHAPTER VII

## THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE FROM 1968 TO 1974

The American Documentation Institute became the American Society for Information Science on January 1, 1968, after more than eighty percent of the voting members favored the proposal.[1] The name change reflected the trend towards information science and the Society provided competent leadership in this field. An amendment to the Constitution in September 1968 permitted a change in emphasis from documentation to information science. In part, the amendment defined the American Society for Information Science as:

> a non-profit professional association organized for scientific, literary and educational purposes and dedicated to the creation, organization, dissemination and application of knowledge concerning information and its transfer. The membership is drawn from all fields in which information is important either as an object of study or as a means to an end.[2]

During this period, the financial status of the American Society for Information Science improved, giving stability to the organization. In the late 1960s the

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[1] "Documentation Institute Changes Its Name," Publishers Weekly 192 (November 6, 1967): 30.

[2] "Amended ASIS Constitution," ASIS Newsletter 7 (November-December 1968): 2.

Society maintained fiscal balance primarily through journal subscriptions and income from annual meetings. By late 1973 a full-scale publications program of the Society's had grown to the point of generating enough excess income to counteract the loss of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) contract, thereby enabling the Society to remain on a sound financial basis.[1]

In fall 1969 the American Society for Information Science Council decided to establish its own administrative mechanism because of the broadening interests and activities of the Society. After terminating the management contract with James E. Bryan, Inc., the American Society for Information Science established an independent administrative office and staff for the Society in Washington, D.C. In April 1970 Herbert R. Koller assumed the duties of Executive Director, succeeding James E. Bryan. Upon the resignation of Koller, Joshua I. Smith became the Executive Director of the Society in October 1973.

In late 1968 Herbert White, President of the American Society for Information Science, and Joseph Becker, President of the Special Library Association, explored the possibility of closer relationships between the two organizations. The initial point of discussion involved the

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[1]Douglas S. Price, "Letter from the ASIS Treasurer," ASIS Newsletter 13 (May 1974): 2.

possibility of a joint headquarters operation but merger of the organization quickly developed as a logical outcome. The objectives, programs and memberships of the Special Libraries Association and the American Society for Information Science overlapped to some extent. However, the Society's approach to the analysis and use of information was theoretical and research oriented while the Special Libraries Association's approach was practical.[1]

A committee investigated means of merging the two organizations in February 1969 after both organizations had favorably expressed this idea. The committee, composed of three members from each organization, submitted its report in April 1969. This joint report of the American Society for Information Science/Special Libraries Association merger study suggested two forms of alliance, merger or federation. The committee recommended further study of these or other means for cooperation between the two organizations.

A new committee, the Joint Committee to Study Merger consisting of the immediate president, past president and president-elect of each organization, developed a working paper entitled "ASIS/SLA Proposed Implementation

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[1]"SLA/ASIS Merger Discussions," Special Libraries 61 (September 1970): 387.

Plan." Presented in January 1970, this paper detailed a mechanism for merging the organizations. Although merger was thought to be eliminating duplicate memberships, analysis of the 1969-1970 directories of the American Society for Information Science and the Special Libraries Association showed only 778 overlapping memberships: twenty-three percent of the Society belonging to the Special Libraries Association and twelve per cent of the Special Libraries Association belonging to the Society.[1] Controversial areas of the Implementation Plan included the lowering of the Special Libraries Association membership requirements, the fiscal soundness of the American Society for Information Science and fear that merger of 7,000 special librarians and 3,500 information scientists would result in an imbalanced program effort.

The Joint Committee decided that merger was feasible provided that three major areas of disagreement be resolved satisfactorily. The three areas of disagreement were:

1. The scope of activities and consequently the name of the merged organization.
2. The organization's philosophy with regard to participation in and contribution to government activities concerned with the development and

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[1]Herbert R. Koller, "ASIS Annual Business Meeting," ASIS Newsletter 9 (November-December 1970): 4.

implementation of research, development and operational programs in information science and librarianship.
3. The location of headquarters.[1]

The Joint Committee continued after the American Society for Information Science Council in April 1970 and the Special Libraries Association Board in June 1970 both reaffirmed their desire to proceed with merger negotiations. By September 1970 the Joint Committee had completed a detailed plan of implementation.

In fall 1970 both the American Society for Information Science and the Special Libraries Association felt that the next step was to ascertain the feelings of the two memberships on the subject of the merger. For this purpose, the Joint Committee prepared a questionnaire for the members of both organizations. A total of 1,327 members or 38.7 percent of the entire American Society for Information Science membership and 1,945 members or 29.4 percent of the entire Special Libraries Association membership returned the questionnaires, mailed in spring 1971. Results of the two key questions indicated 61.6 percent of the Special Libraries Association and 71.8 percent of the American Society for Information Science as favoring the continuation of the Merger Committee with its detailed

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[1]"Joint Statement," ASIS Newsletter 9 (May-June 1970): 1.

planning and that 53.7 percent of the Special Libraries Association and 62.4 percent of the American Society for Information Science would vote for a merger.[1]

Based on the results of the questionnaire the Special Libraries Association Executive Board voted on June 7, 1971, to discontinue merger negotiations and to disband the Joint Committee on merger. The American Society for Information Science Council interpreted the questionnaire results as indicating a desire for closer relationship with the Special Libraries Association but not merger. The Council established a Committee on Inter-Society Cooperation in summer 1971 to seek ways to expand the activities of the American Society for Information Science with other organizations concerned with the transfer of information. At first the Committee worked with representatives of the Special Libraries Association. The Committee on Inter-Society Cooperation (CISCO), open to all professional organizations, extended the application of information science in all disciplines.

In October 1969 the American Society for Information Science presented a proposal to the United States Office of Education for operation of the Educational

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[1]"ASIS/SLA Merger Negotiations," ASIS Newsletter 10 (May-June 1971): 1.

Resources Information Center/Clearinghouse for Information Science (ERIC/CLIS). The United States Office of Education awarded an $180,000 annual contract to the American Society for Information Science and transferred ERIC/CLIS from the University of Minnesota Library School to the Society on January 1, 1970.[1]

ERIC/CLIS was responsible for the acquisition and processing of documents on the operation of libraries and information centers, the technology used to improve their operation and the education and training of librarians and information specialists. The Society operated ERIC/CLIS by assigning specific jobs such as the production of state-of-the-art reports, specialized bibliographies and other information services to individuals and firms. The Special Interest Groups of the Society helped to identify specialists capable of handling these assignments.

A merger of the subject areas of the Clearinghouse for Information Science and the Clearinghouse on Educational Media and Technology resulted in the Educational Resources Information Center/Clearinghouse on Information Resources (ERIC/CIR). The National Institute of Education awarded Stanford University the contract for the operation of the

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[1]"ASIS Takes Over ERIC/CLIS and Names New Director," Library Journal 95 (February 15, 1970): 614.

Clearinghouse on Information Resources commencing January 1, 1974. The American Society for Information Science, originally included as a subcontractor on Stanford's bid for the consolidated clearinghouse, was dropped by Stanford late in the pre-award stages.[1] The Executive Committee of the Society expressed its discontent over the handling of this matter. However, through the loss of the Educational Resources Information Center contract, the leadership of the American Society for Information Science learned that it had never been as important to the Society's membership as it was to the leadership.[2]

As the membership in the American Society for Information Science grew, so did the activities. This period reflects the most active involvement of the Society in affairs within the organization and outside as well. New activities were implemented while old ones were evaluated and reinvigorated if worthwhile.

Due to the extremely broad range of interdisciplinary interests of its members, the American Society for Information Science maintained a number of liaisons, on both a formal and informal basis, with other professional

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[1]"ASIS Unhappy with ERIC Contract Decision," ASIS Newsletter 19 (March 1974): 6.

[2]Herb White, "Message from Herb White," ASIS Newsletter 12 (November 1973): 2.

organizations through the Liaison Committee of the Society. Organizations with which the American Society for Information Science established liaisons included the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Federation of Information Processing Systems (AFIPS) and the American Library Association (ALA).

In January 1968 the CCM (Crowell Collier Macmillan) Information Sciences assumed the administration and development of the Auxiliary Publications Service under the auspices and policy direction of the American Society for Information Science.[1] Auxiliary Publications Service, the oldest activity of the Society, expanded and improved under its new name, National Auxiliary Publications Service, in July 1968. Its primary purpose remained to enable editors to provide to their readers, promptly and inexpensively, auxiliary materials that could not otherwise be obtained.

A Publications Program, created in January 1972, coordinated all American Society for Information Science publications through an office in the Society's Headquarters. Joshua I. Smith served as Director of the Publications Program. The Society felt that a:

> coordinated publishing program would serve the needs of the members of ASIS and the profession, and that

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[1]"ASIS Takes Over ERIC/CLIS and Names New Director," p. 616.

it would enhance the prestige of ASIS and aid the Society's growth and development as an important factor in building the field of information science.[1]

Publications in the Program include the Journal of the American Society for Information Science (JASIS), known as American Documentation until 1970. As the official journal of the Society, it concentrates on reports of research and developments in information science. The Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science can be traced to the ADI Newsletter which became the ASIS Newsletter. The Bulletin provides members with news about the people, programs and events of the Society and the information world at large.

Information Science Abstracts, formerly Documentation Abstracts, is a comprehensive source of information reporting literature in the field of information science and related areas. This publication is jointly sponsored by the American Society for Information Science, the Special Libraries Association and the Chemical Literature Division of the American Chemical Society.

The ASIS Annual Review of Information Science and Technology, a yearly publication since 1966, is a comprehensive review describing and appraising the developments

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[1]"J. I. Smith Appointed Director of ASIS Publications Program," ASIS Newsletter 11 (March-April 1972): 5.

and trends in the field of information science for the past year. The Proceedings of Annual Meetings, an annual publication, contain pre-printed papers presented and discussed at annual meetings. The ASIS Handbook and Directory, published yearly, is a directory of the Society's members, but also contains a short synopsis of the whole organization. Other American Society for Information Science publications include reports resulting from special symposia, workshops and conferences organized to focus attention on specific problems, and various Chapter or Special Interest Group newsletters containing news and items of interest to their members.

Awards began to play a more important role in the American Society for Information Science in 1969. The only recognition up to that time was the coveted Award of Merit. Awards added in 1969 included the Best Journal of the American Society for Information Science Paper Award, the Outstanding Information Sciences Movie Award, the Best Information Sciences Book Award, the Best Publication by a Chapter or Special Interest Group and the Best American Society for Information Science Student Paper Award.

The American Society for Information Science became known for its ventures in new format and content at its annual meetings. These meetings provided a "focal point

for the discussion of formal papers and an opportunity for informal talks with others in the field."[1] To facilitate this, the Society pioneered a number of innovations at its annual meetings. In 1968 American Documentation Paper Forums provided attendees with the opportunity of meeting the authors who had published papers in American Documentation. A special service at the 1971 meeting was an all day presentation clinic designed to help speakers in achieving communication.

A Working International-Information Retrieval Network, featured in 1972, provided access to approximately ten data bases and international access to the European Space Reorganization files. The National Science Foundation provided partial support for this project. The technical sessions were videotaped in 1972 and used not only for membership feedback on the meeting but for recruitment. The American Society for Information Science and the Information Industry Association jointly sponsored the exhibit program at the 1972 and the 1973 annual meetings. Exhibitor seminars gave attendees an in-depth view of the capabilities of related products and services.

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[1]American Society for Information Science, 1969-70 American Society for Information Science Handbook and Directory (Washington, D.C.: American Society for Information Science, 1969), p. i.

At the 1973 meeting each registrant received personalized selective dissemination of information service to enable him to better determine which sessions to attend. The "epitome," a 500 to 700 word contributed paper summarizing unpublished work, work in planning, or work in progress, constituted the bound volume of the Proceedings of the 1973 Annual Meeting, distributed prior to the meeting.[1] After formal presentation, the audience participated in debates on copyright, certification and standards. A proposed joint meeting in Hawaii of the American Society for Information Science and the Japan Documentation Society did not materialize because of time pressure, budgetary and other factors.

In 1972 the American Society for Information Science instituted a mid-year regional meeting, not limited to a geographical region and nationally sponsored. This, in essence, was a mini-conference designed to complement rather than compete with the annual meeting. It dealt intensively with specific and relatively narrow topics. The first regional meeting, held in May 1972, included a mini-tutorial session, technical sessions for the body of the program and "rap" sessions held throughout the conference at which

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[1]"Highlights of 1973 Annual Meeting," ASIS Newsletter 12 (November 1973): 3.

authors discussed their subjects in further detail with interested attendees.[1] The mid-year regional meeting became an annual function of the American Society for Information Science.

From 1968 to 1974, the American Society for Information Science emphasized the importance of its members and maintained a strong recruitment program. In 1969 serious efforts were made to strengthen the internal lines of communication. In 1971 communication became the keyword as the administration concentrated on feedback from Chapters and Special Interest Groups.

The years 1968 to 1974 proved to be very productive for the American Society for Information Science, both in membership and in activities. The sound financial condition of the Society helped to broaden its areas of interests. The American Society for Information Science developed into the most representative professional organization in the field of information science.

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[1] "ASIS Regional Meeting Held in Dayton, Ohio," ASIS Newsletter 11 (May-June 1972): 3.

## CHAPTER VIII

## THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE OF TODAY

Today the American Society for Information Science is an active and growing association dedicated to the creation, organization, dissemination and application of knowledge relating to information and its transfer. The Society acts as a bridge between research and development and the requirements of various types of information systems. The American Society for Information Science provides a forum for the discussion, publication and critical analysis of work dealing with the theory and practice of the components involved in the communication of information.[1]

The membership of the American Society for Information Science, now totaling approximately 100 institutions and 4,000 individuals of which 500 are students, embraces a variety of special interests in information science. The members are engaged in activities ranging from classification and coding systems to the design of information networks, from computational linguistics to cybernetics and information theory.

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[1] The American Society for Information Science, pp. 1-2.

In 1971 the American Society for Information Science conducted a survey of its members. From this, it is possible to distinguish a few inherent characteristics of people working in the information processing field. Thus, the survey indicates that the typical Society member is a male operating a library/information center on a subject in the physical sciences. He works for private industry in the New York area. The typical member, active in the information science field for eleven years, has a Master's degree with a discipline orientation towards information science. Not only does he belong to the American Society for Information Science but also to the Special Libraries Association.[1]

The three categories of membership in the Society are: (1) regular for which there are no formal education requirements; (2) student in which the member must be regularly enrolled at a college or university in a program of documentation, library science or information science; and (3) institutional for either profit or non-profit organizations. Both local and student chapters are located throughout major regions in the United States and Canada. "Chapters provide a means for personal contact, professional

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[1]"ASIS Membership: A Profile," ASIS Newsletter 11 (July-August 1972): 3.

stimulation and information exchange on the local level by holding their own meetings on a regular basis and publishing newsletters and materials."[1] Student Chapters are encouraged as a means of furthering interest in the information science professions. These Student Chapters consist of groups of student members at various colleges and universities, with a regular member serving as advisor. The establishment of the North European Chapter of the American Society for Information Science in 1974 reflects the international influence of the Society.

Special Interest Groups offer Society members the opportunity to share their interests with colleagues of like concern in particular aspects of information science. The following Special Interest Groups now exist:

Arts and Humanities (SIG/AH)
Automated Language Processing (SIG/ALP)
Behavioral and Social Sciences (SIG/BSS)
Biological and Chemical Information Systems (SIG/BC)
Classification Research (SIG/CR)
Costs, Budgeting, and Economics (SIG/CBE)
Education for Information Science (SIG/ED)
Foundations of Information Science (SIG/FIS)
Information Analysis Centers (SIG/IAC)
Information Services to Education (SIG/ISE)
Library Automation and Networks (SIG/LAN)
Non-Print Media (SIG/NPM)
Public/Private Interface (SIG/PPI)
Reprographic Technology (SIG/RT)

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[1] The American Society for Information Science, p. 3.

Selective Dissemination of Information (SIG/SDI)
Technology, Information and Society (SIG/TIS)
User On-line Interaction (SIG/UOI)

Any member of the American Society for Information Science may belong to one or more of the Special Interest Groups.

There are three levels of hierarchy within the organizational structure of the American Society for Information Science. The members are the lower level of the organization, the Chapters and the Special Interest Groups are the middle level and the Executive Council is the upper level. The Chapter Assembly provides a medium of communication between the Chapters and the Council while the Special Interest Groups Cabinet is the medium between the Special Interest Groups and the Council. Thus, the members communicate with the Council via the Chapters and the Special Interest Groups.

The Executive Council governs the American Society for Information Science. This Council is composed of the officers, six councilors-at-large and several ex-officio representatives. Committees of the Society conduct activities dealing with the interests of the Society in specific areas. The Committees of the American Society for Information Science are:

Budget and Finance
Conferences and Meetings
Constitution and Bylaws

Education
Executive
Inter-Society Cooperation
Membership
Nominations
Proprietary Use/Rights
Publications
Standards

The American Society for Information Science maintains a national office located in Washington, D.C. with an Executive Director and staff.

As with all organizations, there are some inherent privileges accompanying membership in the American Society for Information Science. These privileges include membership in a local chapter plus membership in Special Interest Groups; a subscription to the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and the Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science; a listing in, and a copy of the ASIS Handbook and Directory; reduced fees for meetings and publications; the right to vote and hold office in the Society and the use of the Society's Placement Service.[1]

The American Society for Information Science continues to explore and expand its activities. Recently, the National Science Foundation's Office of Science Information Service (NSF/OSIS) awarded a grant to the American Society

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[1]Ibid., p. 5.

for Information Science for the study of information needs.

> This project will identify and communicate the research and development planning requirements, goals, objectives and funding priorities of public and private organizations comprising the scientific and technical information (STI) community in the U.S. . . .
>
> ASIS will provide the expertise to identify the critical issues and problem areas for investigation and discussion. ASIS will analyze the data gathered from a survey questionnaire and the feedback received from the conferences and workshops.[1]

An idea for a future annual meeting of the Society is to hold the meeting at three separate locations concurrently, using telecommunications for a simultaneous annual business meeting. Originally scheduled for the 1978 annual meeting, the Council decided to wait until the later date to employ this concept due primarily to the high costs involved.[2]

Planning ahead, the Long-Range Planning Commission of the American Society for Information Science, established for 1974-1975, is determining the goals and objectives to be started or completed in the next five years. Specific proposals for action are being prepared. The Commission is concentrating on seven general areas:

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[1]"ASIS to Study Information Needs for NSF," Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science 1 (December 1974): 31.

[2]"Highlights of May Council Meeting," ASIS Newsletter 11 (May-June 1972): 4.

membership; public relations and public affairs; international relations; impact of media and technology; structure of the American Society for Information Science; conferences and meetings; and education and continuing education. The Commission must also determine the basic mission of the Society itself.[1]

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[1]"ASIS Long-Range Planning Commission," Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science 1 (March 1975): 33-34.

## CHAPTER IX

## CONCLUSION

A knowledge of the history of the American Society for Information Science is essential to understanding the Society as it now exists. The Society, founded as the American Documentation Institute in 1937, developed programs and activities for the promotion of documentation. Through the years, emphasis has changed from documentation to information science. Today, the American Society for Information Science conducts activities to meet the information needs of its members.

The Society is composed of a diversity of members including information specialists, scientists, librarians, administrators, social scientists and others interested in the application, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information. Organized as a non-profit national professional organization, the American Society for Information Science strives to improve the information transfer process through research, development, application and education.[1] A survey of the activities of the American

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[1] Encyclopedia of Associations, 7th ed., s.v. "American Society for Information Science (ASIS)."

Society for Information Science, as presented in this paper, provides an insight into the Society.

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